industry which includes petroleum sector industries and is being utilized either directly by the Central Government or through Oil Industry Development Board.

Levy on Petrol, Diesel, LPG and Kerosene

†3152. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the rate of Government levy on petrol, diesel, kerosene and LPG in the county is 62%, 41% 109% and 85% respectively;

(b) if not, the existing rate of levy on above items; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has requested the Ministry of Finance to reduce the rates of these levies, if so, Government's decision thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The rate of basic customs duty on petrol and diesel is 20% *ad valorem*. The rate of basic customs duty on kerosene for the public Distribution System is 10% and that for other purposes is 20%. The rate of basic customs duty on LPG is 10%. The rate of excise duty on petrol is 32% *ad valorem* plus Re 6/litre and that on diesel, kerosene and LPG is 16%, *ad valorem*. The rates of sales tax vary from State to State.

(c) The Ministry of Petroleum and natural Gas have taken up with the Ministry of Finance for adjustment in excise duty rates for petrol and diesel and to put in place a suitable mechanism so as to contain the impact of volatility in the international crude oil prices on the domestic prices of petrol and diesel. No decision has been taken in the matter.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.